

Drum Kit Lessons – information for parents

Tylers Green Middle School – September 2025

First lessons of the year are expected to be Thursday 18th September 2025. We have - on average - 11 lessons per term, This gives a minimum of 33 lessons during the year, and accounts for occasional lessons lost to school events, trips, etc.

What do you teach?

In early lessons, we work on... holding the sticks correctly and making good quality drum and cymbal sounds; co-ordinating hands and feet; understanding rhythm; reading drum music; classic drum grooves for common music styles; playing in time with backing music. We mark progress with Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.

In due course, we begin to work on music from grade exam books, as we explore a range of musical styles, but there is no obligation to take exams.

Will lessons be in school time?

Yes, lessons generally happen during the school day. The timetable is rearranged periodically so that students don't always miss the same bit of classroom time. If demand is great, there may be one or two lesson slots during break times.

Won't it be very noisy?

Yes, drums can be played loudly. But **there are things you can do to help considerably**. Many students use an electronic drum kit, which has a **volume control**, and you can play through headphones. You can greatly reduce acoustic drum kit volume by using damper pads.

Hearing protection is strongly advised if you make loud music for extended periods of time.

What do we need and what will it all cost?

In brief outline:

1. **You do not need to a drum kit for the very early stages of learning drums.** A practice pad allows you to develop stick technique, and you can practise basic co-ordination without a kit.
The time to buy a drum kit is when you are sure that you'll take your drumming seriously and can get value from having it. At this point, a kit will be important to enable progress. Properly designed electronic kits are available at a very wide range of prices and qualities. Second-hand electronic kits of reasonable quality start from around £200. e.g. search "Alesis Nitro-mesh Drum Kit" on your favoured trading website.
2. **A pair of sticks - size 5A.** e.g. **Vic Firth American Classic 5A wood tip.** These should cost about £10-12 a pair.

3. **A Practice Pad.** This is a piece of rubber on a flat backing, which has the same "bounciness" as a drum. You can use it to practise drum technique quietly. You only need a basic model - no need for electronics. Should cost £15-25. May not be needed if you have a drum kit.
4. **Drum Kit Launch Pad – Stage 1** (tutor book), supplied direct by Mr Lewin. This contains all the exercises you need to learn the early drumming skills. It costs £15.

What do we need to do for our student drummer?

Like any developing skill, the better you can play drums the more enjoyable it is, and you get better at drumming by doing it! Students can maximise their progress by reviewing and practicing their skills between lessons. Several short, well-focussed sessions throughout the week make a huge difference. One long practise just before your next lesson will be less helpful.

You can help your drummer progress by taking a constructive interest in what they are working at, and by helping them to fit some skills work into their week. Also by providing suitable equipment to use for practice.

What are the fees?

Drum Kit lessons are all 1:1, not in groups.

In 2025-2026, tutoring fees will be:

£170 per term of 20-minute lessons, or £255 per term of 30-minute lessons.

Operation of lessons is governed by a formal teaching agreement between teacher and the pupil's parent / carer.

I'd like to know more, or book lessons...

Contact Jonathan Lewin, our drums & percussion teacher, directly:

e: learning@lewin.uk.com mob / text / WhatsApp: 07709 027251
